Ames p. 1336

THE PRESENT ſtate of Spaine.

Tranſlated out of French.

Imprinted at London by T. S. for *Richard Serger.* 1594.

189024

TO THE WORTHIE, AND FAVOROR OF ALL VERTVES, MASTER RICHARD SONDS, SONNE and heire to the right Worshipfull, Michael Sondes Esquier.

Sir the duetie I owe vnto you, proceeding of so many & infinit curtisies, in all bountiful measure receiued, as well in your forraine trauailes, as in your home aboad, haue of long time been a continuall spurre to my weake forces; to finde some defence against that threatning monster ingratitude; & finding wayward fortune still waspishe in her wonted manner, euen loath to affoord me a good looke: am constrained, lest I should be of you and the worlde condemned, to take this poore occasion to shew mine affectionate mind,

not meaning thereby to make this a ſhew of a ſatisfaction for ſo great a debt, but onely in part to cutte off the conſuming intereſt, and to confeſſe vnto you in the witneſſe of the world a further duetie to bee accompliſhed. And knowing in parte the earneſt deſire you haue alwaies had; to ſee into forraine States, and acquaint your ſelfe with the diuers manners of nations. I finding here a wandering ſtranger by chance, whom I perceiued fit to informe you of ſomewhat worthy the inquirie: hauing now procured him a poore Engliſh weede, I am bold to commend him vnto you, hoping you wil not deny him your friendly patronage, nor me your wonted fauour.

Yours wholly deuoted,
Richard Sergier.

THE STATE OF SPAINE.

IT is a thing noted from all antiquitie; that God hath appointed in this worlde the certayne continuance of Monarchies, eſtats, and families, hath lymited the proſperity and thraledome of nations, and bounded the very liues of all men liuing: neuertheleſſe as well in matters of ſtate as priuate thoſe are founde moſte durable which retayne and keep the greateſt perfection and excellencye from their creator: Some being ordained to ſerue for miniſters of his furie, otherſome for examples of his diuine bounty and grace. For we ſee many men and ſundry eſtates whome God hath from moſte baſe foundations and petty beginninges raiſed and aduaunced to the moſt ſupreame degree of power and dignity, inueſting them with mighty Empires and boundleſſe kingdomes. With whoſe power as of men little vertuous, it hath pleaſed the almightye to ſerue himſelfe, but as with a ſcourge to puniſh the Enormous ſins of his people, others

haue beene ratified from God aboue in this moſt ſoueraigne degree of all humaine maieſty in recompence of their holineſſe of life and vnreprouable dealing among men. But ſo ſoone as the one or the other, beganne to forget the occaſion for which they were placed in this world, which was to ſet forth the kingdom, honour and glory of God onely: whome they together with all men ought to confeſſe to be their general Lord and father; and that they haue gonne a boute by falſe pretextes, and ſiniſter meanes to aduaunce their owne priuat honor and glory, and not that of their great Lord and maiſter. Then God who alone raigneth whome onely we oughte to ſerue, caſteth them downe headlong, deſtroyeth their monarchies, deſolateth their kingdomes, and rooteth out their poſterity from off the face of the earth.

For example the crowne of *Caſtile*, aunciently, a little country gouerned by Iudges, afterwardes by Earles, in the end by Kings, created through the beneficence of *Samſon*, the fourth of that name King of *Nauarre*, ſirnamed, *Samſon* the *Great*, was by *Iſabel* vſurped from the daughter of *Henrye* laſte of

that

that name, Kinge of *Caſtile*: the ſaide *Iſabell* matched in mariage with *Ferdinando*, ſonne to king *Iohn* of *Aragon* whoſe kingdoms encreaſed almoſt in our memory into a mighty puiſſaunce and ſtate. But for that the poſſeſſors therof not reſting content with thoſe bleſings which God hath giuen them here on earth, haue in hoſtile maner inuaded the Countries and poſſeſsions of other Princes, they ſeeme at this preſente to menace their own ruine, as I hope to dilate more at large.

This Prince then, ambitious, if euer were any in this world, amongſt other his famous feates of Armes, to the ende to inueigle the earle of *Rouſſillon*, from *Charles* the eighte king of *France*, made no bones to abandon his owne Couſin Germaine, and brother in law *Ferdinando*, kinge of *Naples* to the furie of thoſe Armies whome *Charles* the eight marched againſt him for the recouery of the ſayd kingdome. Then during the raigne of *Lewes*, the twelfth breaking al conditions of League and amitye, forcing the degree of kindred and alliaunce, which hee had with *Frederick* then king of *Naples*, he confederated with king *Lewes* to diſpoſſeſſe *Frederick*

of his kingdome of *Naples*, and to ſhare it betweene them two (as in effecte they did.) Afterwarde vnder a collour of ſupporting *Pope Julius* the ſecond, his quarrell againſte the Emperour *Maximilian* and the kinge of *Fraunce*, but of a troth for very feare he had of the greatnes of our king, who then might haue chaſed him eaſely out of his vniuſt poſſeſſions, which he held in Italie: he entertained the *Pope* in deadly grudge againſte him, and ſtirred vp the king of Englande and the Switzers to warre vppon his iacke. Inuaded likewiſe from his owne niece *Catherine* (vnder pretext that hir husband was adherente to the *French* King) the kingdome of *Nauarre* her owne proper inheritance; which when he had conqueſted, hee could find no better deuiſe to aſſure it vnto himſelfe then by a falſe pretence proteſting howe he was ready to make reſtitution thereof to his neece: conditionally that leſt he ſhould be too much ouerſeen, a truce ſhould be acorded him for a yeere with the king of *Fraunce* during which in liew of reſtoring it, he fortified al places therof as much as he porſibly could, razed al the reſt of the citties, fotreſ-

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ſes and Cittadels: making expreſſe inhibition, that there ſhoulde not be any tillage of the earth at al, to the end he might take away all meane of recouering the places by him vſurped and fortified in the ſayd kingdome. Yet this was not all: For with his force hee could finely ſow his ſubtilty, and helpe himſelfe with the cloake of religion, to make his matters the better, cauſing to excommunicate the kinge of *Nauarre*, husbande to his ſaid neece, for that he had taken the parte of king *Lewes*, the twelfth a Prince ſo good and ſo holy, that as yet of vs all hee is called by none other name, then a ſaint, and a very father of the people, and vpon this excommunication he ſente very many preachers into the kingdom to turne the peoples harts from the obedience of their true kinge and Queene their lawfull Princes. And what with this matter ſucceeding ſo well vnto him, and what with the death of the ſayde kinge and Queene of *Nauarre* which hee ſawe fell out ſoone after within eight moneths together, hee ſuffered his young nephewe *Henry* their ſonne to bee trayned vppe by certaine miniſters in the opinion of *Martin Luther* and

for

for the ſame effecte ſent vnto him ſome expreſly himſelfe, who drawing the Pope into hatred, for the wronge don vnto their father, to excommunicate him at the inſtance of his vncle *Ferdinando*, who longe before had gaped for that kingdom, it was no hard matter for them to tranſporte the heart of theſe young Princes eſpecially that of *Margaret* his wiues ſiſter to the great king *Francis* from the hatred of the Pope to the hatred of his very religion it ſelfe.

This is then the iuſt and true meane by which the Crowne of Caſtile hath receaued her ample encreaſe, by annexing to it ſo goodly a kingdom as is that of Nauar. But what fell out afterwardes? *Ferdinando* enioyed it a ſmall time, no more then he did the reſt of al his other Kingdomes, God permitting them to paſſe vnto another famely, & that his childrē, both male & femile, who were many in number ſhuld die before him, except onely *Joan* who was maried to *Philip* Arch-duke of Auſtria, a generous Prince, but of a very ſhort life; after whoſe deceaſe ſhe fell beſide her ſelfe, leauing notwithſtanding behinde her the two greate Princes

Charles

Charles & *Ferdinando* ſons begotten by the Arch-duke of her owne body.

This Prince *Charles* beeing come to the Crowne by the death of the ſaid *Ferdinando* (for he ruled King, notwithſtanding his mother *Joan* was aliue detained as priſoner by him) ſoughte by all meanes poſſible the alliaunce of *Fraunce* promiſed by infinite Treaties (eſpecially in that of *Noyon*) to be accomptable for the kingdom of Nauarre, which for all tha the neuer was. And taſting more and more the ſweetnes of cõmanding, he got vnto him, & made ſpeedie prouiſion for himſelfe of the two militarie Orders: of that of *Saint Iames* and of that of *Calatraua* in Spaine, to the preiudice of his brother, to whom they were reſigned: opened his eyes alſo to the Empire, obtained it, & enioyed all the Kingdoms and Seigniories both left him by *Ferdinando of Arragon* and theſe which his mother the foole held: likewiſe the Eſtates of *Flanders* and the prouinces there vnto annexed, leauing his ſaid brother only ſome corner of a country towards *Auſtria*, wherewith after ſome wrangling betweene them he did as a moderate prince content

himselfe being neuer afterwards much moo-ued against his brother now created Empe-rour, but because he was still egging him to resigne to his son Philip now at this present raigning, the estate of King of Romanes, whereof he was possest, to the ende Philip might to the preiudice of the saide *Ferdi-nando* his vncle succeed in the empire.

Ambition most assuredly is a thing great-lie detestable before God, who will haue men to content thēselues with the lot which he giueth them in the earth, but the pretexts which are taken of the pure seruice of God, for an other subiect, are worst of all, and crie for vengeance before his holy face.

I will not say this prince Charles the first, vnder collor of defending the catholike re-ligion in Germany went about (as som haue said) to inuade the estate and libertie of the princes of Germany: but this *I* will aduouch that hee and Philip king of *Spaine* his sonne haue employed themselues (by confessi-on of his owne men, and none of his mea-nest seruantes, the one of them yet liuing, as I thinke, the *Seigneur de Champigny*, not long since high Treasurer in *Flaunders*, bro-ther to the Cardinal *Granduel*) towards the

protestants of Germany, following the steps of the abouesaid *Ferdinãdo* of Arragon their predecessour, to cause the deceased king of Nauarre to bee instructed in the opinion of *Luther*, to the ende to make him the further frõ the crown of France, from the alliance of the *Frẽch*, & frõ the recouery of his kingdom of Nauar. But if he who seduceth but a litle simple child be pronounced by Gods owne mouth to be of worser state then if hee were cast into the bottome of the sea, with a milstone tyed about his neck, what shal his iudgment be towards him, who seduceth not only a child, but causeth others to seduce a king & a whol kingdome? but this not sorting so good effect as they coulde wish, there were 50000. crownes sent to the king of Nauarre then, besides some horses in gift to moue the war in France, the which 50000. crownes for al that wer refused witnesses good ynough of this most wicked inclination & vile affectiõ of the King of *Spain*, may be the Marquessat of *Saluces*, vpon the which hee hath caused 2. seuerall enterprises to be made by his son in law the Duke of *Sauoy* (at the first it was recouered by the sage conduct of *Mounseur*

de Rhets Marſhall of *France*) and the pernicious league made for the ruine of al *Frãce*, nay rather of all the Eſtates of *Europe*, wee need no other teſtimony of his good nature and diſpoſiton towards euerie one of vs, the places borrowed in *Germany* from the Archbiſhop of *Liege* and *Colonia*, there to foyſt in his garriſons when hee liſt, and to leuell right from thence at the empire, to the preiudice of his cooſens, the children of *Ferdinando* of *Auſtria*, vnder ſhew of making rãpine againſt the Proteſtants of *Germanie*, for the good of the Catholik religion forſooth: his practiſes paſt, and euerie day put in vre in Italie, his agents ſent into Poland, Denmarke, England, Scotland, and other corners of the world ſay the ſame: and wel may we liken the king of *Spaine* to thoſe, who detaining an inheritance wrongfullie, ſeek by greater wronges and outrages to driue the true heirs farther from the recouerie of their owne. But the iudgments of God are great, his counſels woonderfull, and the effectes of his iuſtice ineſtimable. He ſuffereth, according to the Apoſtles ſaying, that we be cõmõlie puniſhed by thoſe againſt whom we haue

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treſpaſſed. The king of *Spaines* fathers, and he himſelfe haue ſought by all means to ruine the kinges of Fraunce, and particularlie *Henry* the fourth, raigning at this preſent: and by abuſing the muffler of religion to recoyle this lawful ſucceſſor from the crown of France, whom they ſee full of valour, and fed (as they ſay) with the bloud and marrow of the Lion, ready preſt one day to chalenge his iuſt inheritance. But God who hateth him more who abuſeth the holie name of religion than him who hauing bene ſeduced by purpoſed malice (as our king hath) hath turned from it: would that this king ſhould bee newe borne, who beeing deliuered from ſo manie ſnares laide to entrappe and ſnare him, hath receiued the Crowne of Fraunce, preſented vnto him by a puiſſant Armie, who hath ſubmitted it ſelf vnto him, with all the greateſt States and honeſteſt people of France. And when? Euen then when al the world iudged him by the maliciouscariages and practiſed death of the deceaſed king *Henry* the third the fartheſt from the diadem thereof.

Germanie for her part ſhee openeth her

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eies to defend her ſelfe againſt this kinge of Spaine, who as an eagle ſuppoſeth to holde already in his talēts the empire of the whole world: The like doth Italie: and already this building of kingdomes patched together of ſo many vſurpations beginneth to diſſoluc and ſhake in ſunder. Already the ſtates of Holand and Zeeland, knowing by the iuſte iudgement of God howe wrongfully they were forced and diſtracted from the obedience of Iaqueline of Henald their Countes and lawfull Princeſſe (who for to ſaue her owne ſelfe was conſtrained to forſake her eſtate) haue puld their necks out of the yoke, and made themſelues free, chooſing rather to die then to be ſubiect to a Domination ſo intollerable as is that of the proud Spaniard.

The prouinces of *Zutphen* and *Gueldres* taken away from their lawfull *Seigneurs* by the deede of guiftes which the laſte Duke *Charles* of *Bourgundie* who died before Nancie ſought to get at the handes of Duke *Arnald* then his priſoner, to the preiudice of *Adolf* his ſonne, haue ſlipt the coller alſo of his obedience and the Country of Frizelande hath don no leſſe.

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The beſt aduiſed inhabitants of the lowe Counıries of F*launders Henald* and *Artois* held out their armes to the king of Fraunce, (not onely for the exceſſiue impoſitions (as of paying two ſhillings for the grinding of a quarter of wheate, foure ſhillings for a cow which is for the ſlaughter, or kept to giue milke, and other ſuch like petty taxes, for which they pay full deere in Flaunders) but for that they know that they are of the ancient Demaines of the crown of France, Flanders, making one of the members of the kingdome and being one of the principall ſeates of the twelue *P*eeres. *T*hey crye with a lowde voice that it was not in the power of king *Frauncis* the firſt (then priſoner) ſo to abandon and giue them away: and that in this caſe there ought to be reſtitution made ſeeing the lawe is held currant of all, that a priſoner locked vp faſt in priſon (as was then the ſaid king) hee is not bound to performe any promiſe made, but remaineth afterward in liberty of his faith.

Thoſe of Lille, Douay and *Orchies*, principall citties of the low Countries, do know and confeſſe how by right they appertain to

the

the kinge of *Fraunce*: for *Phillip* the Hardy hauing promiſed *Charles* the fifte kinge of *Fraunce*, (who let him haue them at his mariage with the inheritrix of *Flaunders*) to returne againe them vnto his right ſo ſoone as God ſhoulde haue called vnto him *Lewes de Mayle* Earle of *Flaunders* his father in lawe: and bound himſelfe by contract paſte at *Peronn* the twenty of September 1368. vnder obligation, of himſelfe, his heyres and ſucceſſors, and vpon paine of the Apoſtolicall cenſures, wherunto the king of *Spaine* ſtands anſwerable vpon perill of his owne ſoule.

And as for *Milan*, *Sicilie* & *Naples*, all the world knoweth what rights Fraunce hath in them all.

And as for the kingdom of *Maiorica*, the Earldomes of Sardinia and of Rouſsillon out of which are as yet owing to the Crown of France, the 300. thouſand crowns which *Lewes* the eleuenth diſburſed, when they were engaged to him for that ſumme: *Lewes* of *Aniow* had the gift thereof, which the Ladie Marqueſſe of *Montferrat*, ſiſter and lawfull heire to *Iames* the laſt king of *Maiorica* preſented him.

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As for *Biſcay*, it appertained to the Duke *d'Alenzou* of Fraunce by the right of his mother *Maria de Lara*, Lady of the ſaid country: but ſhee could neuer recouer her prerogatiue from Henry ſecond of that name kinge of Caſtile, earle of *Triſtemara*, inueſted ſeignieur thereof by the aide & only armes of *Charles* 5. king of Fraunce, who ſent thither *Bertrand de Gueſclin* his Conſtable to craze it for *Henries* right, who inſtalled him therin. And by this king, albeit a baſtard, commeth all the title that king *Phillip* at this preſente raygning hath in Spaine: as in like manner from the ſide of Baſtardes commeth all the rights and titles which he pretendeth to *Milan*, *Naples*, *Sicilia*, which are not as yet in too great aſſurance to him.

As for *Arragon*, beſide the quarrell of the donation made by *Pope Martin* ſucceſſor of *Nicholas*, to *Philip* the third king of *Fraunce*, or to *Charles* his ſecond ſonne to the preiudice of *Peter* kinge of *Arragon*, husbande of *Conſtance*, the daughter of *Manfroy* of *Naples*, and baſtarde to Fredericke the ſecond Emperour and king of *Naples*: & the rights of *Mathew* of Caſtelbon, Earle of *Foix* and

Bearne, on the behalfe of *Joane* the daughter of *Iohn* ſon to king *Peter* of *Arragon*: ſauing alſo the deedes of guift paſte by *Rene d'Anjou* king of *Sicilia* to *Lewes* the eleuenth king of Fraunce; by whoſe only aide he was crowned king of *Arragon* in the citty of *Barcellona*: the houſe of *Lorraine* may pretende herin alſo ſom right, bicauſe of *Yolant* daughter to the Duke of *Bar* maried to *Lewes* of *Anjou*, who was forced to compound for al rights for one hūdred ſixty thouſand *Florins*.

And as for Portugal, it is a thing as yet of very ſlender aſſurance in the houſe of Spain, as well by reaſon of the auncient emnity and an old quarrell which is betweene theſe two prouinces, as for the rights which may bee pretended therin amongſt other by the ſucceſſors either hauing right from the houſe of *Boloing* frō which the coūtry of *Boulenois* in *Picardy* is at this preſēt anexed to the crown of Fraunce. For *Alfonſo* kinge of Portugall marying with *Mahault* or *Mathilda* counteſſe of *Boloing*, had by her two children & it fel out ſhe as was in the country of *Boulenois* to ſette order in the affaires of her husband the Earle, the K· of Portugal being rauiſhed with

with the beauty of *Beatrix*; baſtard daughter to *Alfonſo* ſurnamed the *ſage*, or *Aſtrologian*, King of Caſtile, Leon and Toledo, where al things were ſo well agreed vppon betweene them two, that this Caſtilian king without other ceremonie maried her, leauing *Mathilda*, who liued twelue yeares, during this diſhoneſt mariage or rather concubinage: and being returned into Portugall, was forced to returne into Fraunce to make her complaintes to the king, and afterwards to Pope *Alexander* the fourth, who ſoone excommunicated the Portugal king and his new maried wife. Neuertheleſſe the children of this his illigetimat wife did not forbear to vſurp the kingdom frō thoſe who wer lawfullie begotten on his firſt *Raynucio* the *D.* of *Parma* at this preſent hath alſo moſt apparant right on the part of *Maria* his mother daughter to *Edward*, ſon to king *Emanuel* of *Portugal*: the king of *Spain* who hath vſurped it being iſſued but of one of *Emanuels* daughters, & *Rainucio* being deſcended of the ſon: there commeth alſo a third chalenger, *Don Antonio K.* of *Portugal*, who is the ſon pretēded baſtard of Lewes the elder brother of *Edward*: but legitimated by the Pope & by ſentence of the

of the holy Sea, who after the full ſcanning of his title was elected king of portugall by the people, according to the mentall law of that kingdome.

The kinge of Fraunce *Henry* the fourth demandeth the kingdome of Nauarre as to him appertaining by the right of his mother, heire to that *Catherine* aboue ſaid, the neece of Ferdinando of Arragon: whoſe proper inheritance which was that kingdome, cannot be thus loſt to her dommage, when her husband ſhould haue fallen into ſom enormous faulte. To him appertayne the places of *Soſierra* depending from al antiquity of that kingdome which Queene Iſabell the firſte wife of Ferdinando by her teſtament, and for diſcharge of her conſcience gaue order that they ſhoulde bee reſtored, as hauing bene vſurped by thoſe of Caſtile from Nauerre. To him appertaine moreouer the Duchies of Gandia Mount-blanc in Arragon, and Pegnafiel: the Earledome of Ribargorcea, the Infantaſgo of Caſtile, the cittie of Balaguer, and the Townes of Caſtrocheris, Harao, Villalon, Cuellar, the which king *John* father to *Ferdinando* of Arragon

ragon gaue to the kingdome of Nauarre: vpon condition that in recompence thereof, he might enioy the ſaid kingdom during his life, whether hee had iſſue or not by his marriage with Blanch daughter to Charles king of Nauarre third of that name, beeing the little ſonne of Philip *d'Eureux* of the houſe of France: and there are alſo due vnto his Maieſtie foure hundred twenty thouſande one hundred and twelue Florins of gold, ſix ſhillings eight deniers; money of Aragon, as wel can witneſſe the mariage of the ſaid Blanch to the reſtitution of all which territories and to the paiment of euerie penie of theſe ſums the king of Spaine ſtandes bounden yet at this day.

This is not al, the verie kingdome of Caſtile may lawfullie be called in queſtion for the king of France, as being the true ſucceſſour of Saint Lewes: and herein can bee no preſcription alledged. For it is neuer admitted in matters concerning kingdomes, and things purchaſed by fraudulent dealing. His Maieſties right is this, Henrie the firſt of the name king of Caſtile and Toledo, ſonne to Alphonſo the 4. of Caſtile, and to *Leonora*,

daughter to Henrie the ſecond, king of *England*, and to that *Leonora*, whome Lewes the young king of France put away, and dying without iſſue by the fall of a tileſtone vpon his heade, left his ſiſters: the elder called *Blanch*, mother of S. Lewes: the ſecond, *Berneguere*, wife of the king *Don Alfonſo* of *Leon*, and the third, *Leonora* wife to the king of ragon.

Nowe when the ſaide *Berenguere* by ordinanuce of Pope *Innocent* the thirde of that name, had bene ſeperated from the King of *Leon* her husbande, for that they were neere in Conſanguinitie together: ſhee retyred her ſelfe after that tovvardes *Henrie* her brother, with her ſonne *Ferdinando*, which ſhee had by the King of *Leon*, and hauing gotten infinite fauourites in the court of *Caſtile*, ſeeing the King Saint Lewes farre diſtant from her, and much buſied in other warres, ſhee handled her matters ſo cunningly to the preiudice of this S. Lewes, ſhe cauſed her ſon *Ferdinando* to bee elected King of *Caſtile* and *Toledo*, vppon the confidēt hope which ſhe gaue the Caſtilians, that in the perſon of her ſon ſhould the kingdom

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of *Leon* be reunited to that of *Caſtile*, & that they ſhuld auoid by this mean the domination of a French Prince being but a ſtranger amongſt them. S. Lewers began quickly to look & to make inſtãce for his Kingdoms again: but whilſt they did finely hold him play with fair promiſes, to reſtore him al again: he being not able to tranſport himſelfe thether by reaſon of his warres in hande, the vvhole remained amongeſt them euer ſince.

I knowe well the Spaniardes alleage, that S. Lewes compoũded afterwards by means of the mariage of his daughter *Blanch* with *Ferdinando* of Leon, ſon to *Alfonſo* the wiſe Aſtrologian, elected in fauour of the French to be Emperour of Germany, againſt *Richard* ſon to King *Iohn* of *England*: But grant we that it were ſo, which notwithſtanding, can neuer be accerded them, the K. of *France* remaineth not without a ſecond right to the ſaid Kingdoms. For afterwardes God permitting not, that anie ſo vniuſt vſurpation ſhould take place, *Alfonſo* the ſage was depoſed and depriued of the Empire by Rodulfe, elected and placed in his roome,

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in his owne life time: was also bereaued by Sancio his second sonne of part of his kingdomes thorough the aide of a Moore-king, named Mahomet Myr of Granado, with whom this *Sancio* made league to war vpon his father: whereupon Alfonso growing into great indignation, and fearing least he should dispossesse the little infantes issued of his second sonne Ferdinando *de la Cerda*, but then latelie dead, to whome the kingdomes did of right appertaine: he gaue him his curse and disinherited him, declaring by his Testament for heire in his kingdomes the eldest borne sonne of his elder son, and in case he might not possesse them did substitute to the preiudice of his two other sons Iohn and Iames, Philip son to S. Lewes, vnto whom (pricked with the testimonie of his owne conscience) hee confessed these kingdoms of Castile and Toledo to appertaine. And in case the rights of Saint Lewes should come to cease and faile, that then these realmes should come to the children of the said Ferdinando *de la Cerda*, whereof there is as yet some remainder in Spaine, which posible will not be content to bee

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tongue tyed for euer. And one of the descẽdants of this *Ferdinando de la Cerde*, *Alfonsus* who was father to *John d'Espagne* Constable of Fraunce, behauing himselfe as a kinge of *Castile* and *Toledo* made a present to *Philip d'Eureux* king of Nauarre of the country of *Guipuscoa*, *Alaua*, and *Rioia*, which had ben territories and appurtenaunces of Nauarre: all which the kinge of Fraunce who is at this present, may as yet as kinge of Nauarre reclaime and iustlie challenge for his owne right.

I will not staie my selfe at infinite other rights, which not onely Fraunce but the Empire, and other particular Princes may pretend in the dominion & countries which the king of Spain holdeth (who by allusiõ to the house of *Austrich* may be called *Riche* of othermens goods.) I will not touch the share which the king of Spains daughters may pretend with his sonne, as well in the kingdome of *Leon*, as in other goods partable from all times betweene sons and daughters. Little will I also speake of the signall dommage of the diuision of lands and goods pretended by the defuncte Emperour *Ferdinando* of

Avstria, against *Charles* the first his brother, father to this king of Spaine *Phillip* rayning at this present.

What should I counte the reuoults which are daily practised in the indies by reason of the intollerable impostes, which the king of Spaine maketh them endure, who constraineth them to pay euery yeare (as in Spaine likewise) their part for the obtaining of the Popes Bull, that they may eate flesh, egges, and cheese vpon fish dayes, both the men and women, poore and rich, of citties and villages, all without difference from seuen yeares of age vpwardes. And vrgeth them to this inconsideration of the expences he is at in obtaining the saide Bull, which none may refuse to take, albeit he woulde neuer eate butter and cheese in all his life. And that which is taken for a head in Spaine, is two Reals which is twelue pence sterling, and in the Indies is taken for euery poule eighteene or tweenty Reales: Counte you after the rate what it doth amounte vnto in such a world of people: and without the forsaide Bull, none may nor ought not (as saye these good hirelings preachers of Peirdons)

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be buried in hallowed groũd, nor once come within the Church doore. O abhominable abuſe! O ſinne againſte the holy-ghoſt! of thoſe who terming themſelues defendours of religion, ſell vnto their owne ſubiects, the help & ſuccour which they ſay to obtain for the health of their ſoules! See what a goodly reuenewe this is, and like to bee by long time fauored of God. But in the meane time it is the greateſt of all Spaine. O miſerable and vnnaturall French men, who cloſing your eies to ſo many iniquities, do ſuffer your ſelues to bee ſeduced by this GOLDE ſo ill gotten.

There remaineth their inquiſition which ſerueth their turne rather to rob the goods of the innocent and miſerable, then to containe men in any religion, wherof they were but as it were a maske and muffler.

Thus Spaine groweth to bee diſpeopled by theſe cruelties intollerable and by the *Alcaualle*, which they call the tenthpenny of euery thing boughte and ſoulde, yea of the very habit which you ſhall cary newe in your cloake bagges. Who ſhall then

bee the man ſo miſerable that will admit in our Fraunce ſuch people, whoſe very name is ſo ill receaued and odious, that to name them only skarreth the little children, and maketh them affrayde? Alas: Take heede, Frenchmen, it be not reproched you before God, how ye haue chaced away your owne brethren to lodge among you, barbarous people, take heede that this curſe fall not vpon your heads, to be called iuſtlie Vipers who teares out the entrals of your own mother, that is to ſay, of your own natiue country: & beleeue that euerie one that wold ruine the building of Fraunce, ſhall remaine buried in the ruines. But if the lawes do puniſh a man for hauing ſlaine a man who is his like, by how much more ſtrong reaſon ſhall thoſe be puniſhed, who do not only kill a man, but procure the entire death and deſtruction of a kingdome?

The king of *Spaine*, who here tofore ſaid, that we muſt come to no tretie of peace with our king being ſwarued from the faith, ceaſed not in the meantime, and giueth not yet ouer to aſſay by all meanes to make peace with his ſubiects of *Holland* and *Zeland*, who

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are Lutheriens, Caluiniſts or Anabaptiſtes. He offreth to leaue them their free exerciſe of religion, to let them haue their citties and gouernments in the ſame eſtate wherin they poſſeſſe thē, demandeth only at their handes that they woulde but acknowledge him for their king. But thoſe States ful wel knowe to whom they appertaine, and what manner a thing the Spaniſh domination is, & that this nation doth applaud, as doth the Crocodile when ſhe wil caſt forth her venome or bite: witnes be the poor Earls of *Aignemont* & of *Horn* put cruelly to death, notwithſtanding their ſeruices done, for the reducing of coun tries into his obedience, & the faith to them promiſed. The death alſo procured by poiſon, as is ſaid to the poor Lord of *Montigny* the end of the poore Marqueſſe of *Bergues*, and of al the Nobility which by one or other meane they race and root cleane out.

King *Henry* the fourth can wel tel how to defie all their falſe drifts, & he miſtruſteth their cunning cariages, for all their ſending him the portraite of the infant: He may too well knowe, how when *Ferdinando* of Arragon the laſt, & *Philip* Archduk of Auſtria,

were in treaty of the mariage of *Madam Claudi* of Fraunce with *Charles* the fifth, the father of this *Philip* nowe rayning, and after the mariage concluded, ſworne and confirmed at *Blois*, the king of Fraunce *Lewes* the twelfth his Lieutenants miſtruſting nothing the Spainards ranne vppon them defeating two French Armies the one in *Calabria* vnder the Conduct of the Lord *d'Anbigny* the other at *Cirignolla* lead by the Duke of *Nemours* the Lord *Lewes d'Armignac*: the cheife commanders of the Spaniards alledging for all excuſes that they had heard of no prohibition giuen them from their maiſter, to make warres.

At this preſent the king of Spaine being of the age of ſixty 7. yeares and aboue vnluſtly of his perſon (as he is doubtles) ſeeth himſelfe at the period of his ſubtilties, cannot tel by what meanes to keepe that which he hath purloined from others; his faire promiſes vapour away to nothing, his mind is bewrayed and his counſels diſcouered. Hee ſeeketh to helpe himſelfe with the feebler ſide in Fraunce, to the end to keepe vs ſtil in war, for feare leaſt the weaker parte through

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want of means ſhould abandõn the war, hee would make vs knocke one another on the heades, that he may make his preie on vs afterward. He goeth about to cut our throats with our own kniues, and to ouerthrowe vs with our owne weapons, becauſe by his hee knoweth he cannot do it. He entertaineth the warre in our country, for feare leaſt wee ſet vpon him in his owne: And if that parte which he taketh ſhould become the ſtronger, he would incontinent war vpon it. He is not yet come to ſollicite (as they call them) the *Huguenotes* of *Fraunce* to rebell againſt King *Henrie* the fourth, and to wage warre vpon him.

Let then all Princes and Potentates take heed of the enterpriſes and counſels of ſo charitable a neighbour: And you Frenchmen, learn to be wiſe by your owne harmes: I adiure you all by the honour and reſpect you beare vnto God, by the faith, loue and loyaltie you owe to King *Henry* the fourth, giuen by God vnto Fraunce, ſonne to your predeceſſor Kings, iſſued from the loynes of S. *Lewes*, and by the charity yee owe to your countrie, and to the ſafetie of your ſelues, of your

your wiues and of your children, and to the conſeruation of our religion, Temples and Fortunes, ceaſe among your ſelues this peeuiſh rebellion (if as yet it haue place in anie of you) and reduce it to a due obedience, which onely can make next after the grace of God ſpring againe vpon vs the bliſſe of our fathers and the peace and tranquillitie of their golden ages.

Some preach that religion is in great ieopardie, & that many of the fathers in the primitiue Church are dead for the catholick faith, and that we muſt die for the ſame: I grant it, but they muſt giue vs the Scriptures as they are vnderſtood. We are al ready to die when they ſhal force vs to renounce our Sauiour Ieſus Chriſt, & to ſacrifice vnto Idols. Then and no otherwiſe ought death to bee endured in this caſe, ſo haue thoſe fathers receaued it, & we will die before we will bee other than followers of the true Catholike and Apoſtolike religion. Our fathers in the church fled in time of perſecution & none of them haue reſiſted kings in armes, finding it better to ſuffer then to reuolt. Our Lord alſo counſelled his Apoſtles to flie in time of perſecu-

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tion from one cittye to an other, and not to make any reſiſtance by armes.

And ye the Lords of the Cleargy, knowe ye that the doctrine which God hath giuen vs (to you principally as a pledge of his grace) ſhall neuer gette his perfect and reſplendent brightneſſe, as long as theſe bloudy warres ſhall trouble the ſweete ſtreams flowing from ſo goodly a fountain. O how the league doth well ſhew it ſelfe to be come from the loweſt cauernes of hell, ſith it putteth diuiſion namely among the Catholikes, who being vnited together might liuely haue ſet vpon the Heritikes and by faire war cut off many thouſands of them. Knowe that you haue neede of the materiall ſword, which is that of the kinge, to make you liue in ſafety, reſt, and iuſtice, and to maintain this our religion which is the trew ſoule of the body of our eſtate. And ſure, needefull it is to conſerue the kingdome in his entire body without diuiding it into his mẽbers, for fear leaſt by the cutting off of ſom one principall, this ſoule take his flight away. Behold I pray you the fruit of the preachings of ſome amongſt you, and poſſible (albeit not all) moued with a good zeale but not ruled

as saith the Apostle according to knowledge but what haue you done? truly you haue furnished bellows and straw to kindle the coales of our quarrel. O furie: O madnesse: vnbeseeming your Priesthood. So is it come to passe, that millions of your flocks are perished without confession, without sacramentes, without sepulture: Of a hundred Churches scarce shal ye finde one standing whole, nor in ten parishes hardlie one parish-priest, if it bee not in the countries reduced to the Kinges obedience. This was the matter that moued *Mounsieur Vigor*, one of the most famous Doctors of diuinitie in *France*, & for his singular learning made by the holie Father Archbishop of *Narbona* to say in his sermons vppon the feast of Trinitie and S. *Martin*: *If God woulde so much afflict vs as to giue vs a King who were a Turke or an Heretike, yet must not wee leuie Armes againste him, nor warre vppon him, for the great mischieses which ensue thereupon.* These very words are cõtained in the books imprinted before the troubles, but are maliciously put out in the new imprinted by the League, for feare least this knife of truth shuld cut the throate of these suppostes of leasing;

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who could not abide ſo good a leſſon in ſo good an authour.

But now our King is, God bee thanked, moſt Catholike, and when hee were not ſo, God who cauſed himſelf to be enregiſtred in the records of the Emperour *Auguſtus*, when he cauſed the whole world to be taxed: & the commandement to pay the tribute vnto *Cæſar*, albeit he were a prophane Pagan: the example alſo of Saint *Paul* who appealed vnto *Nero* a moſt wicked Emperour, ſhew that the King being ſuch as God ſendeth to take the royal place, is to be obeyed. The examples likewiſe of the thirtie three Popes being all martyrs, & died conſecutiuelie one after another haue ſhewed vs the ſame, who neuer cauſed ſword to be vnſheathed againſt the perſecuting emperours or any other heretikes.

The ſame did *S. Gregory* the Pope, dedicating his dialogues to *Theodolinda* wife to *Agilulphus* King of *Lombards*, holding as yet then his paganiſme that thorow the ſweet perſwaſion of his vvife, he might be brought to chriſtianiſme & purchaſe peace vnto the church. Did not Pope *Leo* the like proſtrating himſelfe at the feet of the vvicked *Attilas*. No leſſe did Pope Iohn the firſt of that name,

going from Rome to *Constantinople* to the Emperour *Iustin*, to pray him to set open the Temples of the Arrians, which he had caused to be shut vp fearing least the Arrians, which might consume of themselues, would disturb and trouble the peaceable estate & tranquillity of the Church.

Doubt ye not also but that our holy father the Pope moued by these examples wil seeke to repaire the wrong donne vnto our king, by some misinformed of his iustice, or possibly caried headlong away with the Spanish passion. He shall find him to bee such a one that he is the eldest sonne of the Church: hee will call to mind how our king is descended from those, who haue consecrated and giuen in almes to the Church, the faireſt flowers of their garland, and the best of their good. Alas! His holinesse cannot do lesse for our king *Henry* the fourth, then by one of his predecessors hath beene donne within these fewe yeares to the Quene of *Sweden* being excommunicated and in relapse, receauing her with all ioy and gladnesse in the person of her embassadors into the bosome of the church.

The holie fathers haue neuer refused the

penitent

penitent princes, witneſſe bee the peace of Conſtance and other decrees, wherof the hiſtories and holie Councels are fully repleniſhed. His Holineſſe may ſee how much is enuied the ſhare, which god hath giuen our king in the earth: But hee ſhall ſay to the king of *Spain*, the greateſt ſpiter thereof, that which Pope *Boniface* the 8. told moſt wiſely *Albertus* of Auſtria, who by his cunning working cauſed himſelfe to be elected Emperour, to the preiudice of *William* Earle of Naſſau, then Emperour of Germanie, whome he ſlewe in battel, he ſhal tel him, I ſay, that hee who hath ſlaine the Emperour with his own hand is vnworthy to bee inueſted and confirmed in the Empire. For it is by his onely hand and handling that this death and ſlaughter is purchaſed in our kingdom of France, wherein he went about and was willing to cauſe himſelfe to be called king, but God bee thanked, hee hath loſt his labour therein.

The holie father who was in the time of *Emanuel* Emperor of the Eaſt, wold not once harken to the offers hee made him to cauſe the Greek Church to bee reunited with the Latine vpon condition that the Empire of the

Weſt, being vacant by reaſon of the depriuation of *Frederick*, ſhuld be reunited with that of the *Eaſt*: foreſeeing alſo that it was a matter greatly to be ſuſpected whereby to make the vniuerſall Church, to depende but of one only power among men: and ſhould his Holineſſe ſo much weaken a King or a kingdom, of Frãce, which is the true arme of the church to ſuffer all the world to be ouerflowne with a king and a prouince meer mixed with races of Moores, Saracens and Gothes, than with true Chriſtians, hauing more holines and reſpect to ſacred thinges, than is borne to the leaſt village in Fraunce?

His Holineſſe ſhall know that the kinges of Fraunce & their peoples haue bent their forces & made good for the Church, then when Aſia, Afrike, Spaine, Italie, and almoſt all the world were full of Arrianiſme and hereſies, let him remember alſo (and his ſucceſſors may for euer cal happilie to remembrance in their holy ſea) how that in the year of the birth of king *Philip* of *Spaine* at this preſent was fatall and diſmall to the holie Sea, hauing therin the Army of Charles the fifth his father, ſurpriſed and ſackt Rome, ranſommed the

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holy father *Clement* and his cardinals ruined & profaned the temples & churches of Rome which *Attilas* beeing named for his inhumain cruelties, the ſcourge of God, refuſed, to do.

King Henry the fourth of *France*, knoweth right wel, that he muſt one day giue accompt of his charge, & that God wil cauſe him to be obeyed, honored and ſerued of his ſubiects, as he wil obey, honour and ſerue God: Hee knoweth how the firſt marſhall, king and father of the whole worlde *Adam*, before his fall, was reſpected of all liuing creatures, as Lord thereof, but after his reuolte the verie beaſtes rebelled againſt him, the Lyon began to diſmember & tear him in peeces, the horſe to kick and winch at him, the dog to ſnarl and bite at him, and ſo al the reſt in their kinds began to bende all the vigour of their furies againſt him and that God hath poſſibly permitted the ſame to be done to him by ſome of his ſubiects (albeit if they turn not again to their allegeance, they can neuer eſcape the diuine vengeance, becauſe their king hath by the ſuggeſtion of his enemies wandered aſtray in Religion. His Maieſty knoweth too well that hee cannot purchaſe the grace of God if being aduanced by him into a more eminent

nent than they in all maner of vertuous actions. Hee ſheweth already by the diligence which he vſeth in feats of armes, that as he is far gone in the iourny of his age; and ther remaining for him ſo many things to be done in the world (the honour and labour whereof it ſeemeth that God hath reſerued for him) he wil imitate the birds of the more northen nations, where the day hauing but one hower of length, they flie more couragiouſly & more ſwiftly then any other of the aire. For he hath in a ſmall time reduced into his obedience the moſt of the people of his kingdome, and ſheweth them by the mild dealing he vſeth towards them, that he hath conquered them not for his owne particular good, but to bring them into their greater eaſe and ſecuritie.

Alreadie his Maieſty doeth meditate nothing els but to make of his court the cabinet of the moſt excellent & rareſt thinges of the earth, and that therein ſhall be found the moſt vertuous, honeſt, and beſt accompliſhed men of this world. Vertue ſhall be in eſteem if euer it were: he pretendeth ſo ſoon as he ſhal haue ſatiſfied thoſe vnto whom his people (miſerable as it is) hath for their follies paſt conſtrained

ned to promiſe recompences, quite to aboliſh, or ſo to moderate the taxes that his poore ſubiectes ſhal haue cauſe for euer to pray vnto the Almightie for him, and his memorie therefore may be ſacred to all poſteritie. He is not ignorant how by the too great exceſſe of the ſaide taxes his people remaineth in languiſhing ſort, & the nobilitie who followeth him is made poor becauſe the Pezant cannot nor dare not till the lands of the nobility & of others for fear of the ſaid taxes, by means wherof the groũd ſhould ly barren, without tillage, & the Nobilitie, which hath no other riches but of the glebe & ſoyl can no longer follow and ſerue him, nor the people of the country, or husbandman the verie forge of all commodities of the kingdome, ſuccour him any longer.

Yee then of the Nobility (if there bee any of this qualitie who wil againſt the deuoir of his profeſsion weare the skarfe of the League in ſteed of our white collour of the flowres de Luce of France) what honor think you to leaue to your children, to ſay that you haue foſtered and nouriſhed this moſtrous *Hydra* the league, which hath brought foorth vnto vs & our children ſo many miſchiefs and miſeries. See you that you ſtop vp the light and brightnes of your

races vnder the finders of your rebellion? Take ye, take ye the collour of your brethren, and permit not that your noble race remaine vilanized, stayned and spotted with treason towards your selues, and towardes you countrie.

And you good people whose prosperity is so much different from that in which our deceased kings and fathers left you, behould the surface of our poore countrey aunciently adorned with your goodly buildings (I cãnot speak this without teares) nowe desert, rugged and without tillage. Where is this liberty promised you by the league? Alas! (As said, *I* thinke *Theophrastus* to the Greekes.) (*They haue put in too much vinegre,*) where is this abolition of taxes? Alas; they are six fold as many as they were before. Where is this restablishment of religion? Alas they haue beaten downe to the grounde and profaned your churches; the priests themselues taking armes haue run into a thousande villainies. Consider that there is in Fraunce neither iustice nor publik force, but from your king, which may sauegard ye from iniury. Perceaue ye not how you empouerish your selues daly, and that these hunger-starued gouernors whose rebellion ye nourish, will stifle you one of these daies to haue your bloud, will flea you

to

to haue your skins, ſeeing that amongſt them the richeſt hath nought to liue vpon, if it be not vpon your ſubſtance, nor any commoditie, which they forge not alreadie vpon your battered Anuile. Liue, liue vnder your king, and vnder his lawes, chace far from you theſe hireling-preachers of ſedition, this miſerable fierers and deſtroyers of our countrie: it is not religion but rebellion they preach: away with them. The Duke *de Maine* acknowledgeth alreadie that he hath bene deceiued and abuſed by them. All the world knoweth it: and there is hope, ſeeing that the Crowne (as ſaid *Titus Veſpatians* ſon, called for his vertue and goodneſſe the delight and darling of the worlde) is a gift of God, beſtowed on him whome hee pleaſeth by his onlie hand and pure will, that the ſaid Duke of *Maine* will reknowledge his Maieſtie for his King, and will repoſe more confidence in him than in any other prince liuing. Well hee knoweth that the *Maximees* of *Spaine* are firſt to make a hande of them, who aide them in the Conqueſt of their prouinces, ſaying iuſtlie that they cãnot credit the faith of them who haue failed in that which they owe to their owne countrie: and when all that were not ſo, neuer was there man who followed them

but is dead miſerably. The ſaid Duke of *Maine*, hath done but too much for his part, when hee had had place but to reuenge the death of his brethrē wherunto K. *Henry* the 4. was neuer conſenting. If he paſſe further, he remaneth for euer moſt culpable and blameworthy. Let him not then let ſlip this good occaſion, whileſt the time is that he may come in and yeeld himſelf to his king with honor, making ſhew of the common pretext of religion, & of no other thing to haue mooued him to take armes, and let him call to minde how hee hath to deale with a kinge of France who ſhal neuer be without ſucceſſor to reuenge all iniuries: that his maieſty may one day come to an accord with the K. of Spaine, and ſo then by that meane this Duke may remaine oppreſſed and of ſmall eſteeme. Let him confeſſe that euery Chriſtian ought to leuell onely at the ſaluation of his ſoule, the which he can neuer obtain at Gods hands, nor any good for his children, but in reſtoring vnto his kinge that which he detained vniuſtly from his kingdome, againſt the dutie of a ſubtect, a vaſſall and an officer to the crowne.

FINIS.